

**Remarks**

Claims 8-14, 16-20, 28-33, 34, and 36-40 are pending, with claims 8, 14, 16, 28, 34, and 36 being in independent form. By the present amendment, claims 8, 14, 28, and 34 have been presented in independent form and claims 1-7, 15, 21-27, and 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowability of claims 8, 9, and 14, of which claims 8 and 14 have been placed in independent form by this Amendment. In addition corresponding apparatus claims 28 and 34 have been placed in independent form by this Amendment.

It will be understood that the scopes of these claims have not been narrowed or even changed by this Amendment. Moreover, since these claims have already been indicated as allowable, they have not been amended for reasons related to the statutory requirements for a patent but simply to expedite prosecution of this application. Accordingly, the amendment of these claims does not raise any presumptions regarding, nor trigger the application of the doctrine of prosecution history estoppel to limit the range of equivalents.

Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowability of claim 16. Accordingly, once all other claim objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 are addressed, it is presumed that corresponding apparatus claim 36 and the respective dependent claims 29-33 and 37-40 will be allowable. In addition, claims 8 and 14 and corresponding apparatus claims 28 and 34 would also be allowable, as indicated by the Examiner, as well as dependent claims 9-13 and 29-33.

Claims 4, 12, 19, 24, 32, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The addition of Figure 3D, as well as the amended accompanying description describes how an indicator can be included in a codeword, which should address the Examiner's concerns.


The drawings have been objected to. Applicants are submitting with this paper additional Figures 3C and 3D, entry of which would address the objections raised. The proposed changes to the Figures, which are shown in red, are believed to address the Examiner's objections regarding headers, indicators, and the number of CRC codes.

The specification has been amended accordingly to correspond to the drawings.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants consider the application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice thereof at an early date. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a call would aid in the examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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